

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

January 6, 2015

1. Walking to Manning Field

New Business Item #3 is the First Reading of the Policy regarding Athletes Walking to Manning Field. It was forwarded to the School Committee on January 16, 2015, is attached and will be available to members of the public at the March 3 meeting. Essentially, the proposed policy indicates that the School Committee does not recommend or condone students walking to Manning Field on Rockland Road and is directing that students should utilize one of several other options. As I wrote on January 16, we recognize the policy is not a perfect, or the final solution. We are all committed to continue to walk to Manning Field, as well as advocating for the development of new fields. However, in the interim, it is our hope that the proposed policy will enhance the safety of our student athletes.

2. Salary Increases

New Business Item #12 is the retroactive approval of the salary increases discussed during the January Executive Session. Please note however, the discussion actually took place at the November Executive Session. Following the advice of Dave D'Agostino, the agenda was not amended. The error was a scrivener error, not impacting the substantive business of the Committee. You recall the Committee settled on a 1.96% increase for bus monitors, administrators, consultants, school committee secretary, call clerk secretary, mail courier, coaches and extracurricular activity advisors.

3. School Committee Meetings

New Business Item #13 is "Procedure for cancelling/rescheduling School Committee meetings". The Committee can at any meeting, by majority vote, cancel or reschedule a meeting. However, I need direction on how to handle a cancellation/rescheduling outside of a meeting. For example, if I am informed that a quorum is not going to be at a meeting, do I have the authority to cancel the meeting, as I did with the February meeting? If there is a major weather event that jeopardizes the safety of the Committee and other participants, do I have the authority to cancel a meeting? If a meeting is cancelled, what authority do I have to reschedule that meeting? To avoid confusion in the future, I need some direction from the Committee on handling situations like these.

4. Calendar

New Business #14 is approval of the 2015/2016 School Calendar. It is attached and will be available to members of the public. It reflects the consensus of the discussion the Committee has had during the past several months. It includes a September 1 start date, provides the day before Thanksgiving off, and maintains the February and April vacations.

5. Budget

New Business #15 is the ratification of the proposed 2015/2016 School Department Budget. This item is included in case the Committee needs to amend the budget approved on January 6 and presented to the Council on January 12. As of this report, I have not received any requests for an amendment.

6. Food Services

The food service personnel communicated their unhappiness with their current working conditions under Aramark at a meeting with Chair Umbriano and several Scituate administrators on February 13. Chair Umbriano and I subsequently met with Aramark on February 18. A follow-up meeting with the food service personnel, several Scituate administrators and Aramark representatives is planned for February 27. Marylou and I will report on result of that meeting on March 3.

7. Telephone

Steve, Mark and Cox installed a completely new phone system throughout the entire district during the February school vacation. We are looking forward to improved service, but ask for everyone's patience while we get used to the new system.

8. Sub Caller

The current sub caller has resigned because of the low pay. Her work has been impeccable. She is paid an annual stipend of \$4,669.86. She works from 5-7 AM and 7-9 PM for 180 days, which comes out to about \$6.48/hr. We advertised the position internally and externally and received no viable candidates. Minimum wage in RI is \$9.00/hr. Jenn is willing to continue in the position if we can raise the stipend for the position to reflect that minimum wage rate. Doing so would result in the stipend becoming \$6,480. I am asking for School Committee permission to make this change.

9. Monthly Activities

Attached is a list of activities that I have involved in during the months of January and February.

Paul Lescault
January - February 2015

In addition to my normal day to day activities, I was involved in the following activities during the months of January and February 2015

Met with parents at monthly Superintendent's Coffee hour (1/5)

Attended January School Committee meeting at Town Hall (1/6)

Presented proposed 2015-2016 School Department budget at joint School Committee/Town Council meeting (1/12)

Attended West Bay Health board of directors meeting (2/4)

Met with representatives of all constituency groups regarding walking to Manning Field (2/5)

Vacation (2/7 – 2/15)

Met with Chair and Aramark representatives regarding food service personnel (2/18)

Attended strategy session regarding para negotiations (2/24)

Attended meeting of food service personnel, administrators and Aramark management (2/27)